

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. *(Previously presented)* A vessel mooring and fluid transfer system for use with liquid cargo transport vessels, said system comprising:
 - an extended length space frame having a first end and a second end;
 - said rigid extended length space frame being supported on said first end by a first column and on said second end by a buoyancy system;
 - said first column being secured to the seabed;
 - said buoyancy system being supported by a substantially flat tank;
 - means for mooring said vessel to said first end of said rigid extended length space frame;
 - means for changing the azimuth of said rigid extended length space frame at said second end of said rigid extended length space frame;
 - means for moving fluid to/from said vessel located at said second end of said rigid extended length space frame.

2. *(Previously presented)* The system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said means for changing the azimuth of said rigid extended length space frame are thrusters.

3. *(Previously presented)* A vessel mooring and fluid transfer system for use with offshore vessels, said system comprising:

a rigid extended length space frame having a first end and a second end;

said rigid extended length space frame being supported on said first end by a first column and on said second end by a second column;

said first column being secured to the seabed;

said second column being constructed and arranged to rest on said seabed;

means for mooring said vessel to said first end of said rigid extended length space frame;

means for changing the azimuth of said rigid extended length space frame at said second end of said rigid extended length space frame;

means for moving fluid to/from said vessel located at said second end of said rigid extended length space frame.

4. *(Previously presented)* The system as defined in Claim 3 wherein said means for changing the azimuth of said rigid extended length space frame includes thrusters.

5. *(Currently amended)* A method for mooring and off-loading fluids from a vessel at an offshore location, said method comprising the steps of:

supporting the first end of an extended length space frame at an offshore location, so that the second end of said extended length space frame ~~to move~~ moves around said first end of said extended length space frame;

using thrusters located on said second end of said space frame to angularly position said space frame with respect to its first end;

mooring the vessel to the first end of said extended length space frame;

providing a fluid connection to the vessel at said second end of said extended length space frame; and

pumping fluid from the vessel through said fluid connection.

6. *(Canceled)* The method as defined in Claim 5 wherein the azimuth of said extended length space frame with respect to its first end is established by thrusters located on said second end.